

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-6. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachments

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-33 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1-9 and 11-33 are amended and claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice.

No new matter is presented by the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the original specification and, for example, in the original specification at page 18, line 28 - page 20, line 2.

Drawing Objection

In the Office Action, at item 2, the drawings are objected to because the unlabeled boxes shown in the drawings do not include descriptive text labels.

Applicants have provided replacement drawings for drawing Figures 1-2 and 4-6 to overcome this objection and also a replacement drawing of Figure 3 to correct a typographical error in numerical reference 318.

Entry and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

In the Office Action, at item 3, the specification is objected to for informalities therein.

Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner to overcome these objections.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Objections to Claims 1, 4, 16 and 17

In the Office Action, at item 4, claims 1, 4 and 16-17 are objected to for informalities therein.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 4 and 16-17 to overcome these objections.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-21 and 31-33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In the Office Action, at item 6, claims 1-21 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 10

Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 10 is now moot.

Claims 1-9 and 11-21

Claims 1-9 and 11-21 have been amended from "computing means" to -- computing apparatus-- to overcome the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-21.

Claims 31-33

Claims 31-33 have been amended to recite "a computer readable storage medium storing program instructions for causing a computer to..." Applicants submit that claims 31-33 are directed to statutory Beauregard claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-13, 16, 18-22 and 27-33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 8, claims 1-3, 5-13, 16, 18-22 and 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kim (US Patent No. 6,546,002) in view of Araujo et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0191799, hereinafter referred to as Araujo).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 10

Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 10 is now moot.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a computing apparatus having a software agent for representing a person in the virtual environment, and recites:

... each respective application specific module representing application specific features which are not known to the other application specific modules ...

... inter-module communication ... which supports communication between a combination of the one or more application specific modules and the core module,

wherein the respective application specific module sends a request including a label indicating a respective application specific, common or generic feature to be performed, and the inter-module communication determines whether one or more of the other application specific or core modules are capable of performing the respective application specific, common or generic feature based on the label such that when at least one of the application specific or core modules are capable of

performing the associated specific, common or generic feature, a call is sent to the one of the application specific or core modules to perform the associated application specific, common or generic feature.

That is, the inter-module communication determines whether one or more of the other application specific or core modules are capable of performing the respective application specific, common or generic feature based on the label. If so, a call is sent to the one of the application specific or core modules to perform the associated application specific, common or generic feature.

Kim Reference

Kim discloses a mobile interface agent (MIA) that is used to periodically update or query user profile data, facilitate the sharing of memory and data structures between application/services both locally and remote, allow various types of user interfaces to be attached and perform intelligent multi-platform conversion of application data. (See Kim at column 5, lines 61-67.) The MIA 102 interfaces with a user I/O section 104, local memory section 106 and a network section 108. When calling up applications/services, if the MIA 102 cannot locate the application/service requested on the local device, the MIA 102 will interact with the profile manager 134 before requesting the actual application/service from the AppServ server 150. The MIA 102 will send a request 430 to the profile manager 134 to determine the **location of the desired application/service on the network**. The profile manager 134 will then respond with the location of the application/service. The MIA 102 uses this information to send a request 434 to the AppServ server 150 to initiate the application/service. (See Kim at column 11, line 62 to column 12, line 7.) That is, Kim teaches the determination of the **location** of a desired application or service, but is silent regarding any determination that one or more of the other application specific modules can perform the respective application specific, common or generic feature. This is because in the Kim device, the application/service on AppServ server 150 are known in advance to other modules in the Kim system and, thus, a determination of whether a particular application specific or core module can perform a respective application specific, common or generic feature is not required. Moreover, Kim is silent regarding the use of labels as the basis for such a determination.

Araujo Reference

Araujo discloses that when a user clicks on the "My Apps" icon in the Netilla virtual office graphical interface, an appropriate HTTP request instruction to fetch a list of client application programs which the user can access occurs. As a result of this

query, component 1126 in thin-client front end 1120 returns a response based on stored user information contained within user database 1190, containing a list of those application programs. (See Araujo at paragraph [0141].) That is, similar to Kim, Araujo teaches that the list of application programs are known to the user in advance and, thus, a determination whether one or more other application specific or core modules can perform the respective application specific, common or generic feature is not necessary. Moreover, Araujo is silent regarding the use of labels as a basis for such a determination.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kim in view of Araujo for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-13, 16, 18-22 and 27-33

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-13, 16, 18-22 and 27-33, which include all of the limitations of claim 1, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Kim in view of Araujo for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Rejection of Claims 4, 14-15, 23-24 and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 9, claims 4, 14-15, 23-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of Araujo in further view of Berger et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0014466, hereinafter referred to as Berger).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 14-15, 23-24 and 26, which include all of the limitations of claim 1, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Kim in view of Araujo for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The addition of Berger does not overcome the deficiencies of Kim in view of Araujo. This is because, Berger does not disclose or suggest:

... each respective application specific module representing application specific features which are not known to the other application specific modules ... wherein the respective application specific module sends a request including a label indicating a respective application specific, common or generic feature to be performed, and the inter-module communication determines whether one or more of the other application specific or core modules are capable of performing the respective application specific, common or generic feature based on the label such that when at least one of the application specific or core modules are capable of performing the associated specific, common or generic feature, a call is sent to the one of the application specific or core modules to

perform the associated application specific, common or generic feature,
as required by claim 1.

Instead, Berger, which is directed to a system and method for enabling management of compartments, teaches a command line utility to manipulate such compartments to which processes can be associated. In the Berger system, rules are set to control the communication of compartments with one another and with the network interfaces. (See Berger at [0137].) Berger, however, is silent regarding the determination of whether one or more of the compartments are capable of performing a respective process based on the label. That is, Berger does not provide details regarding particular rules or whether any such rule determines the capability of a respective compartment.

Accordingly, claims 4, 14-15, 23-24 and 26 are submitted to patentably distinguish over Kim in view of Araujo in further view of Berger for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Rejection of Claim 17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 10, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of Araujo in further view of Shobatake (U.S. Patent No. 5,506,847).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 17, which includes all of the limitations of claim 1, is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kim in view of Araujo for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The addition of Shobatake does not overcome the deficiencies of Kim in view of Araujo. This is because, Shobatake does not disclose or suggest:

... each respective application specific module representing application specific features which are not known to the other application specific modules ... wherein the respective application specific module sends a request including a label indicating a respective application specific, common or generic feature to be performed, and the inter-module communication determines whether one or more of the other application specific or core modules are capable of performing the respective application specific, common or generic feature based on the label such that when at least one of the application specific or core modules are capable of performing the associated specific, common or generic feature, a call is sent to the one of the application specific or core modules to

perform the associated application specific, common or generic feature,
as required by claim 1.

Instead, Shobatake, which the Examiner relies on to teach a transferring means for transferring messages from said resolved modules such that the messages are interleaved to allow an agent to be simultaneously involved in multiple conversations with other agents, discloses an ATM/LAN system in which nodes connect terminals located in limited regions. Shobatake is silent regarding labels and, furthermore, the use of such labels to determine whether application specific or core modules are capable of performing a respective application specific, common or generic feature.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 17 patentably distinguishes over Kim in view of Araujo in further view of Shobatake for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Rejection of Claim 25 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 11, claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Araujo and Berger, and further in view of Wolton et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0030741, hereinafter referred to as Wolton).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 25, which includes all of the limitations of claim 1, is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kim in view of Araujo in further view of Berger for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The addition of Wolton does not overcome the deficiencies of Kim, Araujo and Berger. This is because, Wolton does not disclose or suggest:

... each respective application specific module representing application specific features which are not known to the other application specific modules ... wherein the respective application specific module sends a request including a label indicating a respective application specific, common or generic feature to be performed, and the inter-module communication determines whether one or more of the other application specific or core modules are capable of performing the respective application specific, common or generic feature based on the label such that when at least one of the application specific or core modules are capable of performing the associated specific, common or generic feature, a call is sent to the one of the application specific or core modules to perform the associated application specific, common or generic feature,

as required by claim 1.

Instead, Wolton, at the portion cited by the Examiner, discloses remote registries having the range of activities permissible for engagement by an individual agent and their range of transition states. Wolton, however, is silent regarding individual agents representing application specific features and whether such features are not known to other individual agents.

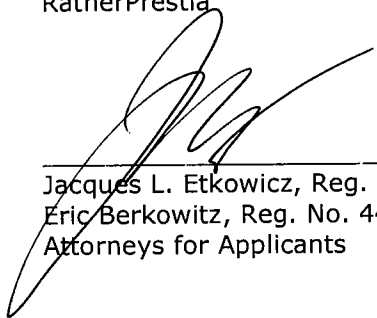
Accordingly, claim 25 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kim in view of Araujo and Berger in further view of Wolton for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



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Attachments: Figures 1-6 (6 sheets)

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